

# Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena

December 2003

| Location | Date | Time<br>Local/<br>Standard | Path<br>Length<br>(Miles) | Path<br>Width<br>(Yards) | Killed | Number of<br>Persons<br>Injured | Estimated<br>Damage<br>Property | Crops | Character of Storm |
|----------|------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------|--------------------|
|----------|------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------|--------------------|

## NEW MEXICO Southeast

|            |  |                    |  |  |   |   |     |   |                  |
|------------|--|--------------------|--|--|---|---|-----|---|------------------|
| NMZ028>029 | Eddy County Plains - Northern Lea County |                    |  |  |   |   |     |   |                  |
|            | 15                                       | 0900MST<br>1430MST |  |  | 0 | 0 | 30K | 0 | High Wind (MG59) |

Severe gradient surface winds began by mid morning on the 15th across the plains of Eddy County. These winds removed the roof from at least one structure, and downed power lines across the county. The severe winds spread east across the plains through the early afternoon. Gusts in excess of 60 MPH were observed by an automated weather station in Tatum. No reports of significant damage were received from Lea County.

A strong upper level disturbance resulted in an intense wind and dust storm across parts of the Southern Plains on the 15th. The plains of southeast New Mexico were affected by the very high gradient winds. Damage resulting from the winds was reported in the Carlsbad vicinity.

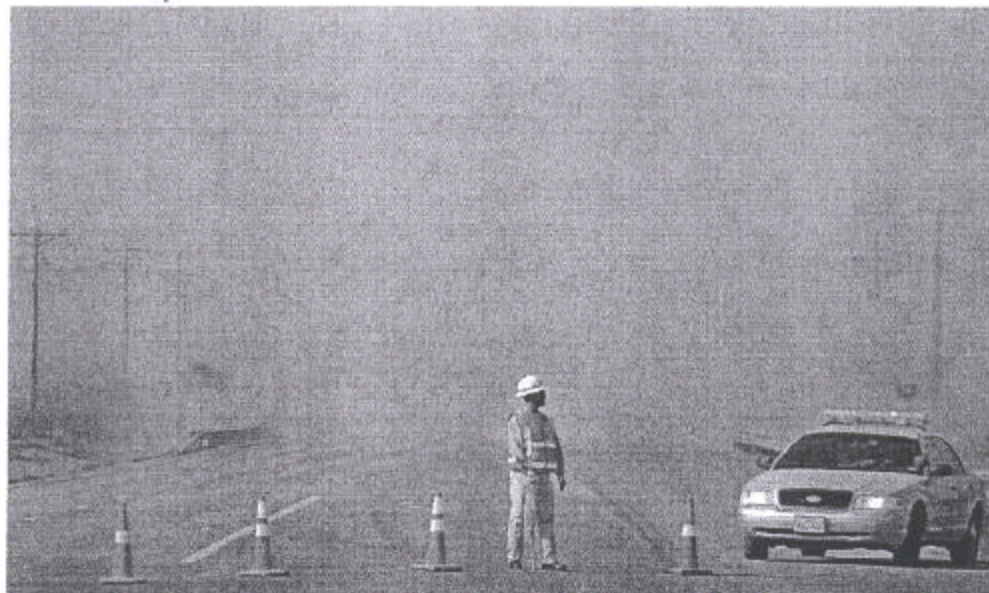
## TEXAS, West

|                |                           |                    |  |  |   |   |     |   |                  |
|----------------|---------------------------|--------------------|--|--|---|---|-----|---|------------------|
| TXZ048-052-062 | Scurry - Howard - Midland |                    |  |  |   |   |     |   |                  |
|                | 15                        | 1050CST<br>1600CST |  |  | 0 | 0 | 65K | 0 | High Wind (MG52) |

Severe gradient wind gusts were measured by the Texas Mesonet sites near Big Spring and Snyder. The winds resulted in the downing of several power poles along Farm to Market Road 1788 in western Midland County.

The severe winds resulted in multiple reports of downed power lines and poles in the Snyder vicinity. The local newspaper reported that a vehicle was damaged by a road sign which became airborne, and that a tin roof was blown off of a building.

|        |         |         |  |  |   |   |     |   |            |
|--------|---------|---------|--|--|---|---|-----|---|------------|
| TXZ062 | Midland |         |  |  |   |   |     |   |            |
|        | 15      | 1050CST |  |  | 0 | 0 | 15K | 0 | Dust Storm |
|        | 16      | 1600CST |  |  |   |   |     |   |            |



at least three traffic accidents occurred along this stretch of Farm to Market Road 1788 in western Midland County during a blinding dust storm on the 15th. Road crews and local law enforcement officials closed access to the highway two miles west of the Midland International Airport. The dust also resulted in an aborted landing attempt of a commercial airliner. Photo courtesy: Paul Zoeller/Odessa American.

Strong to severe surface gradient winds resulted in a blinding dust storm across parts of western Midland County. The Automated Surface Observing System at the Midland International Airport recorded visibilities as low as one quarter of a mile. The visibility was reduced to near zero along Farm to Market Road 1788 about two miles west of the airport. At least three traffic accidents resulted before local law enforcement and road crews closed the highway for several hours. At least one commercial aircraft aborted a landing attempt at the airport due the winds and dust. No serious injuries were resulted from any of the accidents.

A potent upper level storm system which passed over the Southern Plains on the 15th resulted in an intense high wind and dust

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|          |      |                            |                           |                          | Killed               | Injured | Property            | Crops |                    |

## TEXAS, West

storm across West Texas. Blinding dust resulted in several traffic accidents on area roadways. The winds also downed power poles. A few Texas Mesonet sites recorded severe wind gusts. Sustained wind speeds of 30 to 40 MPH with gusts over 50 MPH were common across the Trans Pecos region and the Permian Basin. Measured severe winds and damage reports are referenced above.